

**AMENDMENTS**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Prior to the first paragraph, please add the following new paragraph to the specification:

**--GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

*X*  
*G*  
This invention was made in part with government support under Contract Nos. GM47530 and GM 53910 by the National Institutes of Health. The government may have certain rights in this invention.

**RELATED APPLICATIONS--**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 46-50 without prejudice.

Please enter the following rewritten claims:

*Sub G2*

*EJ*

2. (Amended) An isolated zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide variant comprising at least two zinc finger modules wherein the amino acid sequence of at least one zinc finger module of said variant has at least one amino acid sequence modification, wherein said variant binds a polynucleotide sequence different from a sequence bound by a zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide not having amino acid sequence modification and wherein the amino acid sequence of each zinc finger molecule that binds a polynucleotide sequence different from a sequence bound by a zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide not having amino acid sequence modification comprises two cysteines and two histidines, whereby both cysteines are amino proximal to both histidines.
  
3. (Amended) The variant of claim 2, wherein the zinc finger-nucleotide binding polypeptide is a variant of a protein selected from Zif268 or TFIIIA.